

THE RIO NEWS

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A. J. LAMOUREX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs; a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock quotations and sales, a table of freight and charges, a summary of the daily coffee reports from the Associação Commercial, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, MAY 24th, 1888.

As we go to press the announcement of His Majesty the Emperor's death is momentarily expected, and the city already wears the hushed aspect of mourning. From the favorable telegrams lately received of his steady recovery, it was believed that the crisis had been safely passed and that His Majesty would soon be able to resume his homeward journey. On the morning of the 22nd, however, he was prostrated by a paralytic attack of a very serious character (*Capsalis bulbosa*) which left but the slightest hope, if any, of preserving his life beyond a very few hours. At midday the holy sacraments of the church were administered, and his condition was considered most critical. His strong constitution, however, held out tenaciously against death, and under the care and skill of his physicians a slight recovery was secured before the close of the day. On the morning of yesterday the Empress and his physicians were reported to be watching at his bedside for the inevitable end, since when no change of importance in his condition has been reported. It is certain that everything that the skill of two such eminent physicians as Dr. Seminola and Chatot can suggest will be employed, but no hope of his recovery is entertained. The anxiety with which the telegrams from his bedside are awaited, the hushed appearance of the streets, and the heartfelt words of sympathy and regret which are everywhere heard, all mark the affection in which he is held and the grief felt for his sufferings and impending death. It is a satisfaction to know that the wish expressed by him a little more than one year ago to see the last slave in Brazil liberated, has been realized, and that the grateful news of that great event was broken to him as soon as his condition would permit on the 22nd. There must have been infinite consolation in the news, even in the bitterness of death. It remains only to be added that the sympathy extended to the Princess Regent and her family has been widespread and heartfelt. The affections of her people so recently aroused and attached to herself by the abolition of slavery, will now be consolation to her in her grief, and a secure staff upon which she can lean in the heavy responsibilities which this sad change is destined to bring upon her.

The festivities which continued through the past week over the final overthrow of the institution of slavery in Brazil were of a character absolutely unparalleled in the history of this nation. They began, in reality, with the introduction of the emancipation

bill in the Chamber of Deputies on the 8th, they accompanied its every step with processions, music and acclamations, they signalized the final act on the 13th with a burst of popular joy, they dressed the city with flowers and banners every day, filling the streets to overflowing and deluging them with a tidal wave of congratulations, and then they resolved themselves into a gigantic demonstration, extending through four days and calling out the largest assemblage ever witnessed in this city. The "press manifestation" organized under the auspices of the *Gazeta de Notícias*, promises to figure among the most notable events in the history of this city. It was too extended a programme perhaps, and could not have been carried out successfully under any other conditions than those attending this triumphant victory of popular sentiment over a great evil nourished and protected in the vested interests of a privileged class. The victory was so sweeping and unexpected, however, that the enthusiasm of the people overflowed all bounds, and it was sheer fatigue on the 20th more than a surfeit of rejoicing that brought it to an end. The streets have been continually crowded, business almost wholly suspended, the public departments closed for three days, the D. Pedro II railway closed to freight traffic for the same time, the postoffice partially closed and the mail undistributed, the demands for money incessant, over a hundred thousand people in the streets on Sunday, and during all this nothing but enthusiastic joy, good temper and good order. Really, it is something for the people of Rio de Janeiro to be proud of! And it is a triumph in honor of which we are glad to extend our heartiest and most sincere felicitations.

The attention of the minister of finance is respectfully solicited to the various questions which have arisen through the closing of the custom house and trapiches during the three days of the past week designated for a general celebration of the final abolition of slavery. It was a very simple matter for a committee of newspaper men to solicit the closing of public departments and business houses during these days, and perhaps it appeared equally simple and easy for the custom house to shut its doors; but business obligations are not so easily suspended nor can the commerce of the world be stopped by any such resolution. In this respect a decided mistake was made, for these three days were not legal holidays and the suspension of business therefore could not carry over any obligation maturing on any one of them. It would have been wiser, perhaps, had these public departments been kept open for an hour or two each day for the dispatch of necessary business. The cases already reported include the payment of demurrage on chartered vessels whose lay days expired during or immediately after these days, the payment of dock dues consequent on inability to load or to dispatch vessels, and the payment of extra warehouse charges on goods which were to have been taken out on these days. The inspector of the custom house has refused to make allowance for these days and has enforced collection of these charges on goods taken out early on Monday when the time allowed them expired the preceding day and they would have been removed on Saturday had the custom house been open. We understand that an appeal has been taken to the minister from this decision, and we trust that it will receive the most liberal consideration at his hands. The business interests of this city have suffered very heavily by this unusually long suspension, and it certainly seems unjust that penalties should now be imposed upon them by the very authorities who enforced the suspension.

There is undoubtedly disappointment felt here that receipts of coffee continue so very small. We can learn of no particular explanation of the fact, while such reasons as are assigned we do not consider altogether reliable. We hear that many plantations have been abandoned by the freedmen; that the coffee is dropping from the trees; that crop estimates must be reduced, and so on. If the freedmen are abandoning the plantations, the fact is so jealously concealed that those of our exchanges, who do not endorse the recent abolition law, are quite as ignorant of this news as we are ourselves. On the contrary, our exchanges register not only that the freedmen are remaining upon the plantations, but that runaways are returning to ask for work from the very men whom, as masters, they deserted. The desertion of plantations cannot, therefore, be a powerful factor in the crop estimates. That coffee is dropping from the trees is very possible, for it is probable that most planters cannot possibly harvest the whole of their crops, and more or less will be lost. We have made diligent search after someone who would reduce his crop estimates without success; the greatest concession is that Rio and Santos will not receive for export over 6,000,000 bags, and the inference is that the balance is to remain up country to form that famous "invisible" supply, which within the memory of man has upset the calculations of more than one operator. Apart from dealers and factors, who are to a certain extent suspected of interest, there have been no signs that any material change in crop estimates should be made, and if the delay in receiving supplies may be attributed to manipulation, we think this is caused by the factors, who have long watched the American markets and are now persuaded that these have "sailed too close to the wind," and must pay for their temerity. We should not be surprised to see prices in New York sharply advanced; but when there is a difference of some 4 cents per lb. between May and December deliveries, great caution is requisite. What appears to us the worst feature in the market is that we are likely to open the new crop with high prices in Rio. No one in the trade has ever seen a good year under such conditions; orders are restricted, business drags, and fluctuations are constant. If the American markets are responsible for this state of affairs, some one, in more authority than we are, should sit on their various heads.

The liberals of São Paulo held an important meeting at the capital of that province on the 20th instant, which is evidently destined to fill a prominent place in the history of this country. The purpose was to unite the different sections of the party and to adopt a programme for future action around which all shades of opinion could be rallied. The opinion of the meeting seems to have been very unanimous on one very important question, and it is this that promises to be the opening of a new chapter in Brazilian political history—the federalization of the provinces. There have been occasional advocates of this reform in the political system of the country, but this is perhaps the first time that it has been adopted as a distinctive party programme. Among its advocates at São Paulo were Gavião Peixoto, Moreira de Barros, Leoncio de Carvalho and Brazilio Machado—all widely known and influential. The common opinion was that decentralization should be carried into effect and that the government of the provinces should be reorganized on lines similar to that of the American states. It was generally accepted that the monarchy should remain undisturbed, but that in all other respects the system should be more like that of the United States. Under such a system the provinces would elect their own presidents, administer their own laws, possess their own courts and police, collect and enjoy their own taxes, and form a better balanced union for the maintenance of the imperial government. The final result was the adoption of general resolutions which provide for the appointment of a commission to draft a scheme of federal government similar to that of the United States, another for an agricultural bank project for the purpose of supplying planters with cheap money, another for the creation of professional and technical schools similar to those of the United States, the abolition of the tax on real estate transfers, and the extension of the right of suffrage to the people without other limitation than knowing how to read and write. It is then provided that this programme must be ready by the end of October next when a general meeting will be held of representatives from every locality in the province, without distinction of party, for the purpose of approving it and appointing commissions to solicit the co-operation of other provinces.

The objects of the São Paulo federalists, if we may so style them, are certainly just and praiseworthy. It is not a question of republicanism, but of effective government. The liberals of São Paulo take special pains to confirm their allegiance to the Crown, and to affirm that the objects sought are to be attained by peaceful means. As the sovereign and his succession are not to be interfered with, and as the great aim is to improve and simplify methods of administration, no opposition perhaps may be anticipated from that quarter. It is only the cabinet departments, with their multitudinous bureaus and officials, which will oppose the reform and whose influence will be very difficult to overcome. The measure, however, which will serve to break up this pernicious centralized bureaucratic system can not fail to be good and beneficial even with many imperfections, and it is to be hoped, therefore, that the movement thus inaugurated will be successful. The government of distant localities through badly organized central departments and by means of inefficient, negligent officials, who know comparatively nothing of the places and their special needs which are dependant upon their action, is decidedly crude, costly and defective. An intelligent people would not stand such a system under any consideration, and it is because of the growing enlightenment of São Paulo, which suffers much less than Pará and Rio Grande, that is occasioning this agitation for a change. There can be no good reason urged why the provinces should not be allowed to manage their own local affairs, to collect their own revenues, and then to meet on equal terms at the imperial capital for the discussion of national affairs. A province may very well take charge of all such matters, elect its own executive, and administer its own laws—all subject, however, to the Crown, the constitution and the general laws of the empire. The question of abolishing the 6 per cent tax on land transfers is one, also, of vital importance, and ought to be taken up by the General Assembly of its own accord. Such a reform, accompanied by a measure providing for the safe and easy record of titles, and by the abolition of the existing high probate taxes on the settlement of estates which so frequently prevent their division, can not fail to result beneficially to the country through an increase in the number of landowners and a consequent increase in cultivation. The extension of the suffrage may also be a wise and urgent measure, but this is a matter for careful consideration. As for the project of a Banco Agrícola, the

liberals of São Paulo should lay this aside for the present. No bank can get money from foreign markets at low rates except upon very good security, and any very general practice of borrowing will always tend to increase the risk and depreciate the security offered. Industry and enterprise, attended by a scrupulous observance of all obligations, will always secure good credit for any community, and the reputation for these must first be earned. An industrious population, good laws, enterprising industrial corporations, cheap transportation facilities, good markets, an impartial execution of just laws—all these are first required. If then the Banco Agricola is needed, it can easily be procured on the best of terms.

OUR friends of the now triumphant abolition cause will not take it unkindly if we remind them that they are making history of a very important character, and that it is best that they should act coolly and with circumspection. No one will misjudge the enthusiasm which dominated the population of this city during the past week, for a great and almost unexpected victory had been won and a great evil had been eradicated from the recognized institutions of the country. There was every reason for extravagant joy, and for felicitations which in cold print would appear almost incoherent and meaningless. History, however, will only record the wave of enthusiastic rejoicing which swept over the city and country during these days, and now waits upon cool, impartial judgment for the material required to engrave this glorious act on the imperishable annals of this empire. It is important, therefore, that nothing further should be done except after cool, mature reflection, so that there may be no cause for regret hereafter for the haste with which costly and important projects were carried into imperfect execution. If in a burst of enthusiasm our Argentine friends wish to chisel a statue of Columbus, or a Goddess of Liberty, out of the Sugar Loaf, then let them make the trial; but let us not rush in and disfigure the face of nature with ugly, hastily-constructed monuments. The whole future is before us, and there is ample time to design and erect monuments which will suitably commemorate the final overthrow of slavery in Brazil. It is a great event, the proudest and noblest in the history of this country, and it deserves one of the noblest memorials that the human mind can conceive. It is childish to rush in and put up a multitude of monuments to the Princess Regent, to the 13th of May, and to various men who have distinguished themselves in the cause. The monument to the 13th of May, commemorating the abolition of slavery, should not be decided upon hastily, nor should it be begun until funds enough are secured to insure the execution of a design worthy of the great object symbolized. And, it is needless to say, the present moment is not exactly the right one for raising the money. We have had a week's festival during which time money has been expended freely as water, business has been almost wholly suspended, and the indirect losses to the business community have been incalculably great. To be at once asked for a number of subscriptions for the execution of these various schemes will certainly meet with a very cool reception. Then, as to the erection of monuments to individuals, would it not be better to wait a few years more until their personal records are complete? Some of the men who have distinguished themselves in this cause are young enough to compromise themselves a score of times before reaching the end of life. We do not wish to counsel the repression of one single generous sentiment, nor the withholding of one

single honor, but we do wish to counsel the substitution of deliberation for enthusiasm, and the suspension of all such inconvenient, puerile acts as the re-naming of streets and squares and the worrying of business men with a multitude of subscriptions for monuments and other memorials.

Up to the time that we are writing we have not received the *relatório* of the minister of finance, but from what we can deduce from publications by more fortunate colleagues, H. Ex. appears to favor the substitution of the smaller government "promises to pay" by an issue of silver coin. It is impossible under present circumstances—we refer to the fluctuations in the value of silver in relation to gold—to give more than a qualified approval to this idea of issuing silver in exchange for Treasury notes. There are undoubtedly objections to making silver a legal tender to any great extent; it is cumbersome and generally objected to; its value fluctuates, not in accordance with its intrinsic value, but rather with the drafts made upon its Indian empire by the Treasury of Great Britain, and as it is coin the more ignorant classes in Brazil will probably hoard it. On the other hand silver is a metal, and represents the value of extracting it from the bowels of the earth. It has therefore an intrinsic value, whatever this may be, and the substitution by it of irredeemable paper appears to be an advance towards an improvement in the currency of Brazil. An unlimited issue of silver coin, we consider to be impossible. If, as we have heard it asserted, there is a profit of 20 per cent, in coining silver into Brazilian tokens, it is clear that counterfeit coin, albeit equally pure, will be introduced from abroad, and it is universally known that the Brazilian government was obliged to reduce by one-half the value of the legendary "dump" (40 rs.), because it became profitable to import these coins from abroad. If the government decides upon substituting the lower denominations of its currency by silver, then it should at once propose measures to prevent any wrangling, or questions, as to how much of this silver coin may be tendered. The banks will undoubtedly refuse large sums of silver in exchange for their drafts payable in gold, unless, the silver may be paid out in the same proportion that it is received; tradesmen, unaccustomed to the circulation of coin, may become suspicious, and, as occasionally happens in London, it may become as difficult to buy a tooth-brush with a 2s silver piece here as it is to make the same operation with a £5 note there. This may be avoided to a certain extent by the issue of silver certificates; that is, of certificates issued by the Mint, or Treasury, against an equal sum in coin on hand, which entitle the holder to exchange them for the equivalent of their face value in silver coin. At first sight this idea may appear an excuse for the issue of paper money, but we feel sure a little reflection will show that such is not the case; and moreover the scheme possesses one great advantage; there will be no "calling in" of government obligations to the detriment of the holders of government promises to pay. As we stand above, we cannot lend an unqualified endorsement to the idea of silver as a legal tender. Economists, generally, now consider it as merchandise, the value of which is measured in gold, and we therefore continue to advocate the establishment of national banks. Paper currency based on government securities appears to us quite as secure as tokens issued in silver; but the intense desire of Brazilians to have some species of metal currency renders argument on this point useless. If it be decided to coin silver, and we presume this decision has been arrived at, for we ourselves advised the importation of

silver, then the government should restrict the Mint to the coining of 1\$ and 500 reis coins; the 2\$ piece is quite as annoying as the American dollar, although not quite of the same specific gravity. Silver tokens of 1\$ and 500 reis, and Treasury notes of 5\$ upwards may prepare the way for the resumption of specie payments; although we hardly consider it probable.

THE ABOLITION FESTA.

On the 12th inst. the press of this city, native and foreign, met to decide upon a proper manner in which the abolition of slavery was to be commemorated. A central committee was appointed, with Dr. Souza Ferreira, editor-in-chief of the *Jornal do Commercio*, as president, to organize a plan, by which it was decided to promote a four days' celebration from the 17th to the 20th, during which all public offices and business houses should be invited to close. The programme and proceedings of these four days may be briefly described as follows:

On the 17th at 9 a.m. a mass was celebrated in the Campo de S. Christovão, at which the Princess Regent and Counte d'Eu, the ministry, some of the diplomatic corps, and detachments of regiments, infantry, cavalry and artillery, the marine corps, and a multitude of people attended. Before and after the mass enthusiastic *vivas* were heard, the Argentine minister being notably complimented. In the afternoon the troops and marines, numbering some 1,200 men, marched to the D. Pedro II square (Palace square) and passed before the Princess, who reviewed them from one of the windows of the City Palace. A pouring rain set in during the afternoon, which interfered with the illuminations, but these were however fairly numerous, and the Rua do Ouvidor was quite full of enthusiastic youth giving *vivas* for those who have been conspicuous in the question of abolition.

On the 18th there were races at the Derby club's grounds, which had been granted to the press committee, and to which not only was the entrance free, but the D. Pedro II railway also furnished free transportation under certain conditions. The rain continued, but the attendance at the races was large, and the ponies sold are estimated to have reached 60,000\$. There was an occasional trilling disturbance, but the affair passed off well. At night several of the theatres were open, free to all comers. At first it was sought to restrict the number of spectators by means of tickets, but this seemed likely to create disturbances, and the police authorities permitted every one to enter until the theatres were filled. No accident of any description occurred. Up to a very late hour the streets were crowded.

On the 19th the weather had very much improved and in the forenoon there was a procession of school children, and during the day numerous associations and societies paraded, with banners and music, increasing, had this been possible, the enthusiasm of the people. We felt somewhat sorry for the children, for the streets were wet and dirty, colds and even worse diseases were quite possible as a consequence, which might have been we think avoided by some other form of amusement. In the afternoon regatas were held at Botafogo, and the night being clear, the illuminations were very general, and the crowds in the streets, particularly in the Rua do Ouvidor, were enormous. To quote Mr. Jingle, "one might have had his clothes mangled on his person," and that some cors were, we know. Public balls in the Palace square and Campo Sant'Anna were a part of the programme, but appear to have been unsuccessful.

On the 20th the grand procession was organized at the Campo de Aclamação. Military, sailors, societies of every description, the press, etc., were represented and just how long the procession was seems impossible to calculate. The organization of the procession, however, was a complete failure, owing to late arrivals, a lack of marshalls, and the constant breaking of the lines. After announcing that positions would be taken up according to the hour of arrival, the directors, if there were any, undid the whole arrangement, and the procession was halted quite half an hour in front of the headquarters of the fire department to enable tardy societies and individuals to take place in the line. The procession at last got under way, and the route led through streets, Nossa Senhora, for instance, where it was evidently not expected. After turning and twisting somewhat like a snake with its head cut off, and it appeared that the head of the procession had been, it reached the Campo de Aclamação at about 7 p. m. and separated.

The streets were crowded and the greatest order was observed. The only approach to a disturbance we saw was that of two boys about four years old punching each other for the possession of a pictorial effusion that had been thrown from one of the carriages.

The Princess Regent and the Counte d'Eu were at the City Palace and acknowledged the compliments of the persons forming part of the procession.

The day was overcast, but no rain fell and at night the illuminations were very gaudy. But there was a general appearance of fatigue, and the streets were not filled by the people up to so late an hour as preceding days.

There were, naturally enough, sufficient comic incidents during the procession. We were addressed variously as "John," "Roast Beef" and "Good-night," but the order preserved was wonderful, and the police remarkable by their absence.

By mutual consent the daily press closed their printing offices on the 20th, and only one journal, the *Imprensa Fluminense*, was published on the 21st. Common charity obliges us to make no reference to it.

THE FUTURE OF MEXICAN COFFEE.

Mexico is by no means sharing as she ought to in the immense coffee trade of the United States. Last week, basing our statement on the statistics then at hand, we reckoned the annual consumption of coffee in the United States at \$43,000,000 gold. During 1887 the Americans paid for their coffee nearly \$50,000,000 gold, or \$60,000,000 of our currency. Of this vast sum Mexican coffee planters received less than 4 per cent.

The Central American republics sold the Americans more than twice as much coffee as we sent to them. Even Venezuela exported more than three times as much coffee to the United States as did Mexico. These facts prove uncontested that we are annually losing a trade that, under better economical conditions here, should be largely ours. The United States bought coffee in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887, as follows: Of Brazil, \$36,491,361 gold; of Venezuela, \$6,779,177 gold; of Central America, \$4,269,867 gold; of Mexico, \$1,837,450 gold; of Colombia, \$1,137,177 gold. And, besides, purchased of other countries.

The following presents the contrast between the coffee exportation of Mexico and Central America:

	COFFEE EXPORTATION.
	From Mexico to — United States —
	Val. in gold. Pounds.
1887.....	\$ 1,837,450 14,507,005
1886.....	1,380,750 15,791,002
1885.....	999,538 10,041,411
1884.....	1,114,591 9,975,406
1883.....	809,757 8,578,532
1882.....	1,817,581 17,020,600
1881.....	1,730,838 13,911,910
<hr/>	
	From Cent'l America to — United States —
	Val. in gold. Pounds.
1887.....	\$ 4,269,967 32,734,302
1886.....	3,091,810 29,867,736
1885.....	3,831,372 36,811,072
1884.....	3,288,521 31,827,573
1883.....	2,475,942 24,715,025
1882.....	2,512,230 22,449,112
1881.....	1,989,953 15,353,327

Since we began exporting coffee to our northern neighbors we have never before, except in two years, exceeded last year's exportation; but what a mere drop in the bucket it is compared to the total value of the coffee bought by the Americans we have seen. Already we have pointed out the imperative need of lessening the local taxation on coffee, if we are to make effective competition with the Brazilians and Central Americans, and of other causes which retard exportation we will treat in a future issue, leaving our readers in the coffee-growing districts to digest the figures we give in this article.—*Mexican Financier*.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

May 14.—In the Senate the session was of no general interest, and at the Chamber there was no quorum.

May 15.—In the Senate Sr. Cândido de Oliveira complained of the delay in presenting bills referred to committees. A project to call for tenders for the construction of a railway from a port in the province of Sta. Catharina to Porto Alegre was debated without debate. In the Chamber the minister of foreign affairs read a telegram received from the government of Uruguay congratulating the empire on the abolition of slavery. Deputy Zama proposed that positions be taken up according to the hour of arrival, the directors, if there were any, undid the whole arrangement, and the procession was halted quite half an hour in front of the headquarters of the fire department to enable tardy societies and individuals to take place in the line. The procession at last got under way, and the route led through streets, Nossa Senhora, for instance, where it was evidently not expected. After turning and twisting somewhat like a snake with its head cut off, and it appeared that the head of the procession had been, it reached the Campo de Aclamação at about 7 p. m. and separated.

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May 16.—In the Senate Sr. Cândido de Oliveira's bill permitting the meeting of unarmed citizens was called up, and Senators Nunes Gonçalves and Fernandes da Cunha opposed its passage; the

former desiring to have the opinion of the government and the latter because it tended to peril and subversion of social order; he also thought it contained elements of tumult and anarchy, and also elements for the declaration of the republic. The senator expects other bills of the same tenor, and declare he would make the walls in opposition to any and all opponents. Senator Caubulde Oliveira defended his bill, and the premier appeared to consider that laws now in vigor covered the ground sufficiently well.

May 17.—No session in either house.

May 18.—No session in either house.

May 19.—No session in either house;

May 21.—In the Senate Barão de Cotelice presented a project for a law for the establishment of colonies of native born citizens, and for granting to employers of these the same favors granted to employers of foreign immigrants. Senator Ignacio Martins presented a proposal to abolish flogging in the navy, referring to the recent occurrence of the death of a sailor on board the *Amazonas*. The minister of marine in reply stated that so soon as he had been informed of the case, steps had been taken to investigate the matter, but the report of the committee was not in favor of a court-martial on the commandant of the corvette. Senator Caubulde Oliveira's bill relative to public meetings was referred to the committee on legislation. In the Chamber some time was occupied in discussing the insertion in the journal of a recognition of the compliments from the Argentine Republic. Deputy Alfonso Celso Jr. presented the project of a law to appropriate 300,000\$ as a subsidy to Brazilian exhibitors at the Paris exposition in 1889. Deputy Rodrigues Peixoto proposed to relieve all debtors to the state, whose engagements arise through the effects of slavery. The vaccination bill, now stated to be 14 years old, was sent back to the committee to be rejuvanted, and the bill for the payment of 350,000 francs to the Paraná railway company was also sent to committee.

May 22.—In the Senate the session was not of general interest. In the Chamber the session was principally occupied by Deputy Rodrigues Peixoto, who attacked the minister of agriculture, who, he claimed, had illegally granted interest guarantees for the construction of central sugar factories in Pernambuco. The minister denied the illegality of the concession, and stated that the matter had been thoroughly examined before the government took action.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

The Alagoas provincial assembly has been adjourned to October 1st.

The April receipts of the Pará custom house were 5,670\$300.

The April receipts of the Pará custom house were 848,065\$200, and of the provincial *recebedoria* 192,847\$19.

The freedmen of Campinas, S. Paulo are to present Dr. Antonio Bento with an address drafting on parliament. It concludes with "Salve Liberdade." The law is not quite a fortnight old and the freedmen of S. Paulo are already speaking Latin!

A man was so badly injured in São Paulo on the 14th inst. by a rocket, which struck him in the eye, that he died on the 17th. The carelessness with which rockets are used in narrow streets is a source of constant danger and merits the attention of the police.

The province of Rio Grande do Norte is complaining of drought, and people are already leaving the interior districts. In Ceará great suffering is reported from various localities. It is generally feared that the north is to experience another devastating year.

Maceno, the head-quarters of Senator Paulino, is to have a school for the children of freedmen. A priest, a lady and a gentleman named Oliveira are at the head of the scheme, and why Senator Paulino does not send his overseers down there, seems to us inexplicable. He might send the late minister of finance?

Dr. Richard Gumbleton Daunt, a physician of Irish extraction and a city councillor at Campinas, S. Paulo, voted *nay* when it was proposed to announce the liberation of the municipality. Dr. Gumbleton Daunt is hardly placed; he would make a splendid Home Ruler. The municipality is free, however, Dr. Gumbleton Daunt to the contrary notwithstanding.

A considerable number of complaints are appearing in the local papers regarding the action taken by planters in the province of Rio de Janeiro in retaining under various pretenses the children of slaves on their plantations. It almost appears that the propaganda will have to continue in existence until these pig-headed idiots are forcibly brought to reason.

The trial of the Penha do Rio do Peixe assassins is set down for the 29th inst. In all probability they will be acquitted, for no jury can be found to declare twenty planters guilty of any crime.

The municipality of Ipanhém, province of Piauí, is to have its own particular battalion of national guard. The president considered this necessary, and Ipanhém will now have its lieutenant-colonel and other officers, and six companies, all on paper.

According to a statistical report of the director of the public gardens at Curitiba, Paraná, the export of *herba mate* from that province last year amounted to 19,403,174 kilogrammes, against 14,735,630 kilos in 1886. The export in 1867 was 12,402,217 kilos.

The last guns of slavery are exploding. Telegrams dated Maranhão in the 17th state that in Rosario and Bacabal various ex-masters were visiting their spite by trashing freedmen, and that the president of the province had ordered prompt measures to be taken to punish the delinquents.

At Campina, Minas Geraes, there was a square called after Senator Joaquim Delfino, a member of the Cotelice cabinet. When the inhabitants of Campina heard that the senator had voted against the abolition bill, they at once re-baptized the square, which is now the Square of Liberty.

There are complaints again from S. Paulo as to interference with Protestant religious services in the interior of the province. There are doubtless lay and secular idiots who consider it correct to oppose the free exercise of a right guaranteed by law, and the representatives of the law should and must interfere.

Maragogi, province of Alagoas, was the hotbed of slavery in that province, but its inhabitants commenced freeing their slaves on the 23rd inst. The first man freed nine slaves and was much censured for his conduct. Perhaps some of our local colleagues will let us know if Maragogi subscribes for *Rio de Janeiro* newspapers.

The April receipts at the Bahia custom house were 1,060,751\$436, against 752,382\$509 last year. The receipts for the emancipation fund were 47,697\$339 and 29,543\$105 respectively. The immense in receipts was due almost entirely to import duties, which showed 568,011\$332 excess over last year, but export duties fell off 213,224\$690.

A telegram from S. Paulo to the *Jornal do Comercio* dated on the 18th denies the story of Indian poisoning in that province by strichine, which was published in the *Londin Times*. It was certainly published in a S. Paulo paper, for we saw the item ourselves, and was then reproduced in the papers of this city without comment or denial.

A congress of republicans was held in São Paulo yesterday. Large accessions to this party are reported from various sections of the country, among whom are many disaffected planters who are down on the government for the law of abolition. A republican party dominated by irreconcileable pro-slavery planters will be a decided novelty in politics.

At a place called Mangaratiba, near this capital, the slaves received news on the 14th of the passing of the abolition law, and proceeded to organize a *festa*. They went to the plantation of an abolitionist (everybody is abolitionist now) and were having a good time, when the police sub-delegate and six soldiers appeared, and declared that as they had received no official notice of the law the slave was to be broken up. The abolitionist and his friends had some trouble in preventing the freedmen from breaking the heads of the police, and induced them finally to retire in good order.

Facts of the greatest importance are occurring at S. João do Príncipe, in the province of Rio de Janeiro, and we call the attention of the government thereto. We have information from persons of high degree residents of the town, that there are there planters who retain their laborers as slaves, concealing from these their present condition. One of these planters declared to the freedmen that after the (coffee) crop he would pay them wages, and at the present they could only work for their own account on Saturdays and Sundays. Another took the opportunity of thrashing his slaves on the day that the law was promulgated, remarking that it was his "good bye" to them. These men occupy in the place the positions of police authorities and it may be noted that one of them, hearing that the freedmen of a plantation intended to celebrate the promulgation of the law, said he would receive them with a *festa* in the town, and therefore ordered the police to load with ball cartridges. These officials constantly cry out against the government and a serious struggle is imminent in the locality.

It is urgent that the government take energetic steps to end that the law may be respected, and that these authorities, who are moreover incompatible, for they are all near relations of the municipal judge's first successor, should be dismissed.—*Gazeta de Notícias*, 19th May.

A considerable number of complaints are appearing in the local papers regarding the action taken by planters in the province of Rio de Janeiro in retaining under various pretenses the children of slaves on their plantations. It almost appears that the propaganda will have to continue in existence until these pig-headed idiots are forcibly brought to reason.

The April receipts of the Manaus custom house amounted to 128,005\$699 and of the provincial *recebedoria* to 92,989\$337.

In Campinas, S. Paulo, when the negroes learned of the passage of the abolition law, they were almost crazy. The S. Paulo correspondent of the *Jornal* says that halls, "shin-digs" (*batuques*), and processions were organized, and the *fests* terminated in a grand *auto de fé* of all the instruments of torture, so recently used, that could be found in the city of Campinas.

RAILROAD NOTES

Rumors are still current that the Leopoldina and Macaé and Campos railways have been sold to English capitalists.

The April receipts of the Carangola line amounted to 27,904\$260. The expenditures are not published.

On the 19th it was reported here that the Macaé and Campos railway had raised a loan in London for £800,000. We could not learn the conditions.

The provincial government of S. Paulo has paid the Bragantina company the sum of 78,800\$, on account of its 7 per cent. guarantee, for the half year ending 31st December last.

A London exchange says Mexico will pay railway subsidies in 6 per cent. bonds. Our province of Minas Geraes has been doing this for many years, not to settle overdue obligations, but current engagements.

The Norte railway has been authorized to transfer its concession to the Rio de Janeiro and Northern Railway Company, Limited, and the last named company has received permission to transact business in Brazil.

The first line of railway in the Holy Land, which is to be constructed by a Belgian company under a concession from the Sultan, will run from Jerusalem to Jaffa. Sleepers, telegraph wires, and rolling material have already arrived, and in no distant time we shall have the matter-of-fact railway porter profane the air with his shrill cry in continental fashion, "Bethleem! Bethleem! Five minutes for refreshments!"—*Railway News*, May 5th.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS

A monument is to be erected to Solis in Montevideo.

The petition of General Arredondo, chief of the last revolutionary attempt in Uruguay, to be restored to his old position in the Argentine army, has received favorable consideration.

Trouble has broken out between the English and native elements in the Buenos Aires rowing club, and the English and Americans there are to start a club of their own.

Quarantine has now been abolished at the River Plate on all arrivals, except those from Rio de Janeiro. Landing from such arrivals is permitted only after the completion of ten days from Rio de Janeiro.

Our telegrams say Ferrari's opera company at the Colón theatre of Buenos Aires is capital and has been received warmly. The *Herold* says the company, with the exception of Tamagni, is not worth a red cent and has been almost hissed. Which are we to believe, both or neither?—Montevideo *Express*.

The exports of cereals from Buenos Aires and Rio Parana ports during 1887 are as follows: From Buenos Aires; 2,025,209 bags of maize, 533,779 bags wheat, 202,606 bags of linseed. From the Rio Parana; 1,281,131 bags of maize, 1,558,905 bags of wheat, 270,098 bags of linseed; making a total of 5,871,727 bags.

According to President Celman's message to the Argentine Congress the revenue for 1887 amounted to \$8,135,000, or \$7,613,000 more than the estimates. The expenditures were \$43,263,000 for ordinary expenses and \$6,756,000 for special purposes. The internal debt on 31st March last was \$47,100,000, and the foreign debt \$2,427,000. The aggregate value of exports and imports during the year was \$218,000,000. The number of immigrants received was 137,000. The ordinary possesses 3,028 schools with an attendance of 227,450.

Brazil has abolished slavery. Now let the Argentine Republic do the same. Nominally it has, but really it has not. There are scattered through the country Indian captives who are to all intents and purposes slaves. They are to be found among "high life" families in the city of Buenos Aires, the capital of the Republic, and all over the country. They are slaves because in bonds. They work and get no wage. They are not free to come and go, but are hunted and held as other slaves are held, treated well or abused according to the dispositions of their masters."—*Buenos Aires Herald*.

COFFEE NOTES

The Java coffee crop, this year, bids fair to be a short one. The Bal crop, on the other hand, has every prospect of being abundant.—*Ceylon Times*, March 5th.

The Java *Advertiser* of February 25th states that the Government coffee crop there this year has been estimated at 483,400 piculs.—*Ceylon Times*, March 10th.

An association has been formed in São Paulo, under the designation of "Companhia União Agrícola da Vera Cruz," for the acquisition of lands and the cultivation of coffee. The capital is 300,000\$ in shares of 200\$ each.

While the price of spot coffee at New York has fluctuated little during the week, the opposite is true of options, which have been up and down constantly, but a little more down than up. The Brazilian situation is changed some by a reconnoitring report of stocks now much too small, and so, while only 10,000 bags were secured last week and clearances were much larger, the stock on hand Saturday was 145,000 bags—45,000 more than a week before. The Rio exchange is, perhaps, not above suspicion on other grounds, for firms offers to sell were last week—and have frequently been before—lower than those the exchange quoted. So possibly the cable of last Saturday, which shows an advance of 300 reis over the Saturday before, is not quite as accurate as could be desired. But this is only a surmise—we don't suggest it as a fact, but merely as a possibility; and whoever wishes to place implicit faith in the figures given is at liberty to do so without any protest on our part.—*St. Louis Mercantile*, Apr. 12th.

LOCAL NOTES

It is reported that another gang of counterfeiters of Brazilian currency has been discovered in Oporto, Portugal.

The R. M. S. *Elbe*, which arrived here on the 15th, made the trip from Bahia in 50 hours. This is probably the best time on record.

The Brazilian consul in Liverpool, the son of Visconde du Rio Branco, has been made a Baron with the same title as that of his father.

What is a *patauge allegorio*? The railway employees carried three on the night of the 19th. As we did not see them, we ask for information.

Our venerable and respected Instituto Histórico woke up suddenly on the 17th and sent off a telegram to the Emperor, informing him that slavery in Brazil is extinct.

Now that slavery is definitely abolished, is it not about time to abolish, or dissolve, the various clubs and associations organized to promote the solution of the question?

On the 16th inst. the minister of agriculture, and *ad interim* of foreign affairs, addressed a circular to the foreign ministers here advising them of the passage of the abolition law.

The Princess Regent has directed that a commemorative inscription shall be engraved on the table on which the abolition law was signed. The table is of the time of D. Pedro I.

The Brazilian corvette *Trajano* appears to have been about five days in the voyage from Montevideo to Buenos Aires. An ordinary river steamer does the trip in eight or ten hours.

On the 17th a workman at the flour mill here slipped from his pins and fell into the bin where the newly ground flour was pouring. He was suffocated, and when taken out was quite dead.

In Granary the news that slavery was abolished was very well received. We do not know where Granary is, exactly, but the inhabitants have evidently been abolitionists from the first to the last.

It seems to be gradually dawning on the enthusiastic mind that Dr. Antonio Bento had much more to do with securing abolition than many personalities who have reserved their energies for the Rua do Ouvidor.

When the minister of agriculture arrived at his department on the 16th, the staff threw flowers at him, and poetry also. The latter contained a request to close the department during the abolition *festa* and was promptly acceded to.

Why cannot the local press induce Dr. Davino, of Sta. Maria Magdalena fame, to come down here. He has been acquitted by the jury; and no doubt had time been granted him, he would have freed all the slaves he has not had thrashed to death.

We regret to have hurt the feelings of our esteemed colleague of the *Revista de Engenharia* by our reference to government subscriptions. It appears that the government subscriptions referred to in our last were for the *Revista do Clube de Engenharia*, and not the older review.

DAILY COFFEE REPORTS.
Rio Association Commercial daily cablegram to New York
regarding position and quotations of the Coffee market.

	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23
Stock this morning 1st hands, bags	73,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000
do do 2nd hands	73,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000
Receipts yesterday, bags	5,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
do Santos	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Shipments for United States, bags	5,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Stock in hand	73,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000
Freight by steamer, per ton	35 c									
Average price Ordinary 1st per arroba	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50
do Good 2nd	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
do Good end per kilo	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Exchanges on London	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6
Freight per steamer, 5% prime	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%

* Receipts 2 days.
† Receipts for 1st and 2nd hands.

* Receipts for 3 days.

DAILY RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS OF COPPER AT RIO DE JANEIRO.

Receipts	Ings	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23
Shipments U. States.....	5,200	3,050	4,021	3,137	2,209	2,450	2,841	2,687	2,815	2,650	2,650
" Europe.....	7,050	3,850	854	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
" Capes.....	11	550	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
" Elsewhere.....	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Total Shipments.....	11,258	4,853	1,841	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Chambers.....	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213
Stock, in hands.....	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000
do and do.....	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500
Average price Ordinary 1st per arroba	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50
do Good 2nd	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
do Good end	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Exchanges on London.....	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6	14,211.6
Freight per steamer, 5% prime	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%

WEEKLY SUMMARY.

	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23
Shipments for United States during the week	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
do Europe	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
do Suez	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Clearances for Europe and elsewhere	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Freights by steamer	35 c									
Steamers loading for United States	15 s									
Steamers in hand	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000

MARKET REPORT.

Rio de Janeiro, 23rd May, 1888.

EXPORTS.

	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23
Shipments of Santos this morning, 1st hands, bags	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
do United States during week	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
do Europe	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
do Suez	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
do London	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
do Hamburg	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
do Paris	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
do Good Average	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
do Steamer	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000

	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23
Shipments for United States during week	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
do Europe	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
do Suez	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
do London	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
do Hamburg	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
do Paris	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
do Good Average	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
do Steamer	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000

* Stock at Santos this morning, 1st hands, bags.

† Stock in 1st and 2nd hands.

‡ Receipts for 1st days.

§ Receipts for 3 days.

|| Receipts for 4 days.

||| Receipts for 5 days.

|||| Receipts for 6 days.

||||| Receipts for 7 days.

|||||| Receipts for 8 days.

||||||| Receipts for 9 days.

||||||| Receipts for 10 days.

||||||| Receipts for 11 days.

||||||| Receipts for 12 days.

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||||||| Receipts for 59 days.

||||||| Receipts for 60 days.

||||||| Receipts for 61 days.

||||||| Receipts for 62 days.

||||||| Receipts for 63 days.

||||||| Receipts for 64 days.

||||||| Receipts for 65 days.

||||||| Receipts for 66 days.

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GUARDIAN FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE CO.
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TABLE OF DEPARTURES, 1888

Date	Steamer	Destination
May 31	Nile	Santos, Montevideo and Buenos Ayres.
June 5	Elbe	Southampton and Antwerp calling at Bahia, Maceio, Pernambuco, Lisbon and Vigo.
.. 14	Tamar	Santos, Montevideo and Buenos Ayres.

This Company's steamers leave Southampton every alternate Tuesday, and Rio de Janeiro, however, every alternate Tuesday.

Information on freight shipped on these steamers can be taken out at the Agency.

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Phipps Brothers & Co.
 Agents.

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FINANCE.....	30 June
ALLIANCA.....	28 July
ADVANCE.....	18 Aug.

The fine packet

ADVANCE,

on return from Santos will sail 9th June at 10 a.m. for

NEW YORK
 calling at
BAHIA, PERNAMBUCO, MARANHÃO,
 [entering the two last named ports]
PARÁ, BARBADOS and ST. THOMAS

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To Liverpool.....	calm	steerage
New York.....	\$220	gold
" & back... ..	\$145	\$75 "

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LIVERPOOL, BRAZIL AND RIVER PLATE MAIL STEAMERS.

UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE
BELGIAN AND BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENTS.

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To New York:

Lafitte..... May 6th
Nasmyth (Landing also in Santos)..... June 1st

To Southampton (for London) and Antwerp:
Hogarth (Belgian Mail steamer)..... May 29th

To Rio Grande Ports:
Grenier..... } Weekly.

Mails are closed as announced by the Post Office.
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ENGLISH BANK OF RIO DE JANEIRO (LIMITED)

HEAD OFFICE IN LONDON

BRANCHES IN BRAZIL:

Rio de Janeiro, Pará, Pernambuco, Bahia, Santos, São Paulo and Porto Alegre.

BRANCH IN THE RIVER PLATE:

Buenos Aires.

Capital £1,000,000
 Ditto, paid up £ 500,000
 Reserve Fund £ 185,000

Draws on
THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK,
 and transacts every description of Banking business.

LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: LONDON**BRANCHES:**

LISBON, OPORTO, PARÁ, PERNAMBUCO, BAHIA, RIO DE JANEIRO, SANTOS, SÃO PAULO, RIO GRANDE DO SUL, PELOTAS, PORTO ALEGRE, MONTEVIDEO, AND NEW YORK.

Capital £1,350,000
 Capital paid up £ 651,000
 Reserve Fund £ 325,000

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